<u>CLAIMS</u>

1.   An image processing method for performing a
projection transformation on a captured image, comprising:

a region setting step for setting first regions by
partitioning an image obtained subsequent to transformation of
the captured image by lines parallel to a horizontal axis and
a vertical axis passing through an origin; and

a transformation step for transforming second
regions prior to the transformation of the image, which
correspond to the first regions set by the processing of the
region setting step, into the first regions by a projection
transformation, characterized in that

the first regions are set by the processing of the
region setting step so that the first regions do not contain
the horizontal axis or vertical axis.

2.   The image processing method according to claim 1,
characterized in that

the first regions which contain at least either
the horizontal axis or vertical axis when set at a default
size by the processing of the region setting step are further
divided so that the first regions do not contain either the
horizontal axis or the vertical axis.

3.   The image processing method according to claim 1,
characterized in that

in cases where the first regions that contain

at least either the horizontal axis or the vertical axis exist when set at the default size by the processing of the region setting step, the sizes of all of the first regions are altered so that no horizontal axis or vertical axis is contained in any of the regions.

4. An image processing device for performing a projection transformation on a captured image, comprising:

region setting means for setting first regions by partitioning an image obtained subsequent to transformation of the captured image by lines parallel to a horizontal axis and a vertical axis passing through an origin; and

transformation means for transforming second regions prior to the transformation of the image, which correspond to the first regions set by the processing of the region setting step, into the first regions by a projection transformation,

characterized in that the region setting means sets the first regions so that the first regions do not contain the horizontal axis or vertical axis.

5. A program for causing a computer to execute processing that performs a projection transformation on a captured image, comprising:

a region setting step for setting first regions by partitioning an image obtained subsequent to transformation of the captured image by lines parallel to a horizontal axis and a vertical axis passing through an origin; and

a transformation step for transforming second regions prior to the transformation of the image, which correspond to the first regions set by the processing of the region setting step, into the first regions by a projection transformation, characterized in that

the first regions are set by the processing of the region setting step so that the first regions do not contain the horizontal axis or vertical axis.